GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1442
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2002
IMPORT OF SENSITIVE ITEMS
BRAHMANAND MANDAL;T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of sensitive items has registered a positive growth of 6.7% during April - December, 2001;

(b) if so, the names of items whose import has increased alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent of which the total import of the country has increased during the above period in comparison to the total export as a result thereof;

(d) the extent to which the increase in import of sensitive items has affected the domestic industry; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to bring down the import of sensitive items?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) : Yes sir.

(b)(c)(d) & (e) : Increase has been witnessed broadly in import of edible oil, rubber, cotton & silk and spices. After removal of Quantitative Restrictions, import of a commodity depends upon the domestic demand, international supply and prices of the commodity. However, Government is constantly monitoring the situation and taking remedial measures so that the imports do not cause any serious injury to the domestic industry. Towards that end import duty on natural rubber latex (Tariff Code No.4001.10), spices (pepper, cloves and cardamom) has been increased from 35% to 70% in the Budget for the year 2002-2003. Earlier in the year the import duty on cotton was revised from 5% to 10%. Import of natural rubber is being strictly monitored and now permitted only through the customs ports at Kolkatta and Vishakhapatnam. These measures should help contain the growth in import of sensitive commodities. The total import of the country during the above period has shown 4.55% increase whereas export has shown 5.05% increase in rupee terms.